

01310

1990/11/29

76C

PEN American Center**RELEASED**508 Broadway, New York, New York 10012
(212) 334-1660/Cables: Adinlerpen New York/Fax: (212) 334-2181President
Larry McMurtryVice Presidents
Robert Caro
Barnard Kanner
Susan Sontag
Robert Stone
Marion TinneySecretary
Betty FussellTreasurer
Lionel TigerExecutive Board
Dore Ashton
Ken Auletta
Evan Berkowitz
Boris Bismuth
Noel Blum
Magda Bogin
Patricia Brown
Joseph Brodsky
Wesley Brown
Marjorie Calkins
Jerome Charnin
Amy Chomsky
Joel Coen
Jayne Cortez
Barbara Diamondstein
E. L. Doctorow
Julius Fierler
Frances Fitzgerald
Barford Fieldman
Charles Fuller
Paula Giddings
Allen Ginsberg
Peter Ginzburg
Barbara Goldsmith
Mary Gordon
Marilyn Hacker
Robert Hass
Hal Hayman
Eva Hoffman
Anne Hollander
Marion Hubbard
David Henry Huang
John Irving
Susan Jacoby
Lucy Kaminer
Eric Kuhl
Steven Kurl
Martha Weinman Lear
Penelope Lively
Eileen Latham
Robert F. Lucid
Cynthia Macdonald
Mary Macleary
Norman Mailer
Pamela McCorduck
Louise Merrett
Arthur Miller
Mary Morris
Victor Navasky
Shirley Ochs
Grace Paley
Raymond Patterson
Kathryn Perry
Charles Plumber
Carol Rutter
Edward Said
Felix Sater
Katherine Saxe
Jonathan Schell
Harvey Shapiro
Susan Richards Shreve
Alicia Siskind
Rose Styron
William Styron
Gay Talese
Martin Tucker
Robert Taft
Kurt Vonnegut
Edmund White
Leon Wieseltier
Helen Wolff

General Counsel

FAX SENT

November 29, 1990

The Honorable James A. Baker III
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary of State Baker:

On behalf of the more than 2,500 writers who are members of PEN American Center, we write to voice our dismay about reports of your upcoming talks with China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. Recent articles in the New York Times suggest your government has invited the Chinese official to discuss American policy in the Persian Gulf -- more specifically to elicit Chinese support for a United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing the use of force against Iraq in exchange for improved relations between the two countries. We fear that this normalization of ties would entail the lifting of U.S. sanctions against China and a curtailing of U.S. criticism of the human rights abuses committed by the Chinese government.

In light of reports detailing the Chinese government's continued crackdown on dissidents and its harsh treatment of those involved in last year's pro-democracy movement, overtures by your government to China seem particularly troubling. We are enclosing an appeal sent today by PEN to Prime Minister Li Peng on behalf of journalists Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao who were charged last week with "plotting to overthrow the government" and "spreading counter-revolutionary propaganda" based upon their active involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations. According to our information, these charges could carry the death sentence. It appears that Mr. Chen and Mr. Juntao are being punished for exercising their internationally recognized right to free expression.

We ask that you intervene on the two journalists' behalf in your upcoming meeting with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. We, furthermore, request that you impress upon the Chinese government that any normalization of the official and economic ties between the United States and China must be preceded by an improvement in the Chinese government's questionable human rights record. Otherwise, it would appear that in its eagerness to pursue its Gulf policy, the U.S. administration is all too willing to sacrifice legitimate human rights concerns.

United States Department of State
Office of E.O. Privacy & Classification Review
Review Authority: ZS24086, IVAN
Date: 07-22-94
Case ID: 9300158

OPEN AMERICAN CENTER

NOV-29-'90 THU 18:40 ID: PEN AMERICAN CENTER TEL NO: 212-334-2181

11054 P03

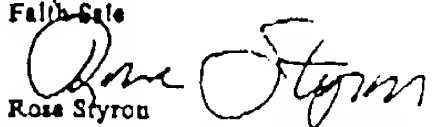
-2-

We hope you give this matter serious consideration and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,


Larry McMurtry
President


Faith Sale


Rose Styron
Co-Chairs, Freedom-to-Write Committee